

PEACE NEWS

No. 469 June 8, 1945 2d.

FOR A CONSTRUCTIVE PEACE

Big London demonstration

THE NATIONAL PEACE COUNCIL'S DEMONSTRATION AT THE CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER, ON WEDNESDAY OF LAST WEEK, HELD AS AN EXPRESSION OF PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR RADICAL AND CONSTRUCTIVE PEACE POLICIES, ATTRACTED ONE OF THE BIGGEST LONDON CROWDS FOR SOME TIME—PROBABLY THE LARGEST AT ANY MEETING HELD BY A PEACE ORGANIZATION SINCE 1939.

Well over five thousand people tried to get into the hall, which seats approximately half that number; five hundred crowded out an overflow meeting in the Livingstone Hall, and more than fifteen hundred were turned away.

For the latter a further overflow meeting in the street was organized on the spot at the suggestion of Muriel Lester, the well-known pacifist, and addressed by Roy Walker, Public Action Secretary of the Peace Pledge Union. The police stopped it because open-air meetings are not allowed within a mile of Westminster while Parliament is sitting.

The speaker thereupon invited the crowd to follow him to Hyde Park to continue the meeting, and hundreds did so, walking like a procession through the streets. In the Park Fredrick Lohr, the anarchist-pacifist, who was already speaking, allowed Roy Walker to use his pitch, and the interrupted meeting was resumed with a crowd which by then totalled about a thousand. It continued for more than two hours.

The large audience inside the Central Hall heard a series of forceful speeches by Dr. C. E. M. Joad, the Rev. Leslie Weatherhead, Victor Gollancz, Miss Vera Brittain, the Rev. F. D. V. Narborough, and Prof. Norman Bentwich, who presided. Miss Vera Brittain, after speaking at both the indoor meetings, afterwards went to address the Hyde Park crowd.

Vision and generosity

Her plea for the repeal of the non-fraternization order in Germany drew one of the biggest cheers of the evening from the Central Hall audience; another greeted Victor Gollancz's impassioned plea for the victory of the Left parties in the General Election, as the best assurance that Britain and the world would follow those policies "in the interest of the well-being of the common man everywhere in the world" which were the essential guarantees of peace.

In opening the meeting Prof. Norman Bentwich declared that the two fundamental principles of peace were vision and generosity. Dr. Joad spoke of the development of the crisis in our civilization: "Our power grows and grows apace and outstrips our wisdom, which doesn't grow at all but gets rather less."

We have got to think ourselves out of this conception of purely national patriotism."

The Rev. Leslie Weatherhead said: "We are in the hole in which we find ourselves because man has not the spiritual power to make his fine plans work." He showed the part Christianity could play in this direction.

Victor Gollancz, after saying that he, too, attached "the utmost impor-

SPEAKERS SAID :

Repeal orders on non-fraternization

Work for economic co-operation

Beware of slogans during election

tance to changes in the inner man and to the growth of religious spirit," went on: "I cannot agree with the view that you can do nothing to change human nature by changing conditions." He showed how economic conditions had contributed to the rise of Nazism and to the coming of war.

"Of course the root cause of the whole thing was human wickedness. But an enormous amount could be done by substituting for a system which consecrates human greed a system of human co-operation in society." He said that within the next six weeks voters would have a chance to help forward that development.

Answering a protest at the introduction of "politics," Victor Gollancz declared: "There is nothing so appalling as this attempt to divide principles from politics."

Vera Brittain, after urging the audience to remember on polling day what Mr. Gollancz had said, went on to speak of the "mental and spiritual fight against the perils of nationalism." We ourselves were not guiltless, as could be seen in India.

New attitude

We needed "a new conception of human relationships and a new vision of national and international society." We had to learn "not to take but to give, not to blame but to pity, not to punish but to redeem, not to hate but to love."

"We could begin the application of that code in Germany now," she added, "by the repeal of the non-fraternization order."

The Rev. F. D. V. Narborough said it was the duty of everyone at the meeting individually "to provide a rallying-point against the irresponsible things already being said all round us."

"The vast public outside is only aware of the vast complexity because it means that we are not likely to have a 'snap' election. Slogan-posters are not going to carry undue weight."

"Most of the young people I know in the Services have a fear of propaganda and a healthy aversion to eloquent perorations. There is a healthy fear of being hoodwinked by some undue simplification. We must be careful to show our consciousness of the complexity of the situation."

The speeches at the Central Hall are likely to be published later in a pamphlet.

Because of the popular demand at the Hyde Park meeting, Wednesday night meetings are now being held there regularly.

PEACE NEWS !

THIS is the first issue of Peace News for a very long time to carry a report of a peace meeting as its main news story on the front page. We know from bitter experience that mass meetings can, by themselves, effect no improvement in the state of the world. But we felt that the amount of support for this one, at this particular time, had an encouraging significance. Peace news is coming into its own again!

This is not unrelated to our invitation to readers a fortnight ago to guess which two anniversaries fell on the same day this week, for one of the events we had in mind was the publication of the first number of Peace News—on June 6, 1936. The other anniversary falling on June 6, was, of course, that of D-Day.

We now look forward to receiving those five-shilling gifts for the Peace News Fund from readers who failed to remember either anniversary, and half-crowns from those who only got one right! And if those who guessed both correctly feel like sending the Fund something to mark the paper's ninth birthday we shall be very grateful.

Contributions since May 25: £12 10s. 9d. Total to date: £5,945 13s. 3d.

Please make cheques, etc., payable to Peace News, Ltd., and address them to the Accountant, Peace News, 3 Blackstock Rd., N.4.

Germans who would not fight 300 FOUND IN BUCHENWALD

The details of the treatment of German conscientious objectors which we print below give the first detailed factual reply to the oft-repeated wartime question—"What would happen to any C.O.s in Germany?" Most of the C.O.s concerned were Jehovah's Witnesses—a sect to which probably very few (if any) readers of Peace News belong. We publish this record at some length, however, not because further evidence of ill-treatment in concentration-camps is required, but because it shows more clearly than most reports how, despite weary months and years of ill-treatment and threats of death, men clung tenaciously to the beliefs for which they had been imprisoned. And it is a reminder that in the concentration-camps, besides the many thousands of political opponents of Nazism, was a smaller band of men who simply refused to fight.

THEIR OWN STORY

AMONGST the prisoners who have been locked up in Buchenwald all the time the camp has been in existence—that means eight whole years—there are about 300 men who were brought there because of their Christian faith. Most of the Christian prisoners are Bible Students... Other prisoners confirmed that from the beginning to the end the position of the Christian prisoners was a unique anti-fascist demonstration.

So said Hr. Björn Hallström, London Editor of the Swedish newspaper Svenska Morgonbladet, in a broadcast following his visit to Buchenwald concentration camp on Apr. 25.

"Once," he went on, "they were going to compel the Bible Students to do military service. If they refused they were to be shot as conscientious objectors. Two SS Companies marched up ready to shoot. The prisoners calmly faced the rifles. They refused unanimously to fight for the State which had taken from them the freedom of worship. The rifles were lowered and instead of being shot there was a further deterioration of food and new ill-treatment."

"Some of the religious prisoners were executed. I have a letter in my hand which a boy wrote before his execution: 'I can take this step with a good conscience,' he says in it, 'and even if it does cost an effort, the spirit must conquer the flesh... and I should never be happy again if I acted differently.'"

Document from Buchenwald

The basis of this and other broadcasts by Hr. Hallström was a document prepared in Buchenwald concentration-camp after its liberation, the original of which he possesses. Its contents have been made available to Peace News by the Central Board for COs, who received a translation through the International Bible Students' Association (whose members are known in Britain as Jehovah's Witnesses.)

The youngest member found in Buchenwald by the Swedish editor was only 17, and the oldest was 70.

In addition to Bible Students, Hr. Hallström says he found a few members of other Christian bodies. With them were a few former SS guards who had been put there because they renounced their oath to the Führer and now believed in God.

Germany is only one of many countries where Bible Students have been harshly treated for refusing military service. The document from Buchenwald recalls how, in Ger-

many, persecution started as soon as the Nazi régime was established.

The greatest wave of arrests began in spring, 1936, although the leaders in Magdeburg had been arrested in the autumn of 1934. Under a decree of June, 1937, all Bible Students who did not recognize the State and who refused to stop their activities were placed in the various concentration-camps.

"By autumn, 1937," continues the document, "the number had increased to 270, while in the autumn of 1938 the highest figure of 450 was reached."

"Inhuman and disgraceful treatment has been the lot of these people... In August, 1937, a Punishment Company was formed (in Buchenwald) and was only disbanded in 1944. All Bible Students, with the exception of a few specially qualified men, were enrolled. The most brutal camp guards swung their cudgels, and the Punishment Company was the élite of the Buchenwald concentration camp in the carrying of heavy burdens and in work-out-pit... all newcomers belonging to the Bible Students were put in the Punishment Company and remained there for three to nine months."

Chance to Recant

"On Jan. 6, 1938, the opportunity offered itself for the Bible Students... to purchase their freedom by signing that they would recognize the (Nazi) State and renounce their belief in the establishment of the Kingdom of God on earth. With the exception of but a few who had been given the violet badge (one given to all Bible Students) in error, this offer of the Camp Führer was rejected... ill-treatment and pressure were increased."

"Like shadows these creatures with the blue patches slunk through the camp. Colossal hunger raged... so that the green from trees and bushes was eaten with dry bread."

"Daily a few were called to the gate and were ill-treated... to force them to sign and thereby cause them

(CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE)

"All men are human"

PRESIDENT HUTCHINS, OF CHICAGO UNIVERSITY, REPORTED IN TIME, MAY 21:

I venture to predict that the present excitement about war criminals will seem ridiculous a few years hence. At this juncture we can afford to remember what Edmund Burke said of us: "I do not know the method of drawing up an indictment against a whole people."

We cannot support the thesis that because German leaders acted illegally, therefore they should be treated illegally. Two wrongs do not make a right. It is easy to understand why Mussolini was lynched; it is more difficult to see why Americans should gloat over it...

If we do not intend to rule the

Germans as slaves by military force till the end of time, we must treat them with justice and, if possible, with mercy. Otherwise we lay here and now the foundations of the next war....

The most distressing aspect of present discussions of the future of Germany and Japan is the glee with which the most inhuman proposals are brought forward and the evident pleasure with which they are received by our fellow-citizens... The peace of the world depends upon the restoration of the German and the Japanese people. The wildest atrocity stories cannot alter the simple truths that all men are human that no men are beasts... Let us remember that vengeance is the Lord's...

PEACE NEWS

3 Blackstock Road, London, N.4

Stamford Hill 2262

All letters on other than editorial matters should be addressed to the Manager

BARRIERS

SO long as the war in Germany lasted a case could be made for the notorious non-fraternization order. But narrow considerations of "security" no longer apply. It is possible, though callous, to weigh the political arguments for ostracism against those for "re-education." Such calculations are fundamentally unreal: the ordinary soldier, who is not greatly interested in the theory of it, is required to carry out the order. And the plain fact is that he cannot and will not. The soldier is the realist and the politician the romantic. The standard of judgment of the man-on-the-spot is not to be despised. The basic decency of the British or American soldier is too precious to be stifled. The comment of one such man, published in the News Chronicle (June 1), is authentic in its resentful humanity:

"After fighting since 1939, I am now in a country just as beautiful as our own; I am amongst children just as lovable as our own, and among girls whose attractiveness proves that all beauty is not contained in bottles (cosmetics are taboo).

"For some reason I have to adopt the attitude of a new Master Race, and I am sharing the punishment of non-fraternity with every living soul of this defeated nation, and feeling the draught just as much.

"We have seen the Germans at their worst; we have killed them. We have seen them well and truly defeated on the field of battle, and have not gloated. (We are still an army of sportsmen.)

"We can now see them at their best, knuckling down to Allied administration, and we dare not even speak to them.

"We were allowed to speak to prisoners on the battlefield; men who had killed our own comrades. But with the people who did not kill, who did not torture and did not cause us direct bodily harm, but who are the same colour, and in some cases blood as ourselves and who are just as pleased to see the whole damn show over as we are, we must not speak!

"My letter is not the opinion of an individual but that of an overwhelming majority."

In the same column was a letter from some gunners who asserted that "In our battery of 150 men it is almost 100 per cent. for fraternization."

It is not necessary to list the abstract arguments against such an order. Mercifully it has proved quite unworkable, as any reasonably detached person might have foreseen. But it is not enough for British soldiers to defy it. The discriminating barrier must be removed officially, so that the work of reconciliation can begin.

Unsettled

JUST now, when there is little rational ground for optimism, it is worth reflecting on 1940. At that time we feared that the rash of Defence Regulations heralded such a rigid war-totalitarianism as would banish precious civil liberties for the rest of our lives. It proved not so.

The moral is not that we should be ostriches, comforting ourselves with the thought that the worst may never happen. It is that in human affairs—as in British weather—however high the probability of the further outlook, the unsuspected is always possible.

So, while trying to see the world as it is and as we fear it may be, let us avoid the pessimistic doctrines of inevitability. They are no substitute for honest effort. On the day when one may predict with certainty that human beings will do precisely this or that, the human race will have ceased to exist. However conscious we are of the capacity for good—or for evil—of mankind, we do well not to overlook his quixotic capacity for defying the most expert prognostications.



Linecut by PHOEBE WILLETTS

"Somehow the imagination of the well-fed has to be sensitized to the slow death of the Dutch cities. . . ."—Leading article in last week's Peace News.

The shadow of CONSCRIPTION

By WINIFRED RAWLINS

WHAT is the substance of this shadow of military conscription which hangs over the immediate post-war years? It will probably not be a personal problem for most of us older pacifists, especially if we happen to be women. Does that mean that our opposition to it will be less intense? I hope not.

This is what the shadow means to me. The fastening on this country of those insidious habits of thought about an acceptance of the idea of killing and training to kill as part of the normal background of life.

The worst evil of war is not the physical havoc but the damage done to men's personalities; and part of this damage is the decline in moral sensitiveness. If, when war comes to an end, the burden of conscription is lifted, there is an opportunity for people to re-adjust their sense of values, and war is seen to be the brutalizing process which it is in reality.

THIS first negative reaction from war is the hopeful soil in which to sow the seeds of a creative pacifism. It is the reassertion of the fundamental humanity and good will which is found in some degree in all normal human beings.

But if compulsory military service continues after a war ends, then the war-time perversions of thought and distortion of truth regarding the people of other countries are almost inevitably carried over into the post-war years.

You cannot train people in warfare and at the same time do everything to encourage friendliness between the nations. At least it would appear to me very difficult to do so. If conscription were once accepted, a possible outbreak of war would be regarded as less catastrophic, less outraging to morality, and more in the natural order of things, than would otherwise be the case.

And how much smaller would be our chances of converting that natural seed of good will, that bias

towards internationalism so often present in young people, into a positive pacifist faith if enforced military training were to intervene a few years after leaving school! When a boy is thoroughly familiar with the use of a bayonet, when his rifle stands in the corner side by side with his cricket-bat, is it likely that he will listen sympathetically to an argument for resistance without violence?

APART from the hindrance to the making of pacifists which conscription presents, it is an alarmingly strong factor among those influences in the life of a community which either carry it towards war-like policies and decisions or away from them.

Conscription means the shadow over every family with growing-up sons, of apprenticeship to slaughter. However the parents may strive to plant in the minds of their children the ideals of tenderness and compassion; the military idea will force its way in at an age when personal resistance to it is rare indeed.

Even a conscience-clause would do little to mitigate the evil except insofar as the position of convinced pacifists is concerned. It is true that it would ensure that there was at least recognition of the moral issue involved, but in the mind of the average person it would be only the peculiar few, the members of some obscure sect, who would feel that such a clause applied to themselves.

Many pacifists who are able to offer personal resistance to conscription would do so on the ground that it conflicts with their sense of vocation. They are called to a life of positive service in the cause of peace, and their personal integrity alone forbids their acceptance of military training.

This individual resistance is of inestimable value. But do not let us ever allow its significance to blind us to what I believe to be our main responsibility as pacifists: to open men's eyes to the wrong done by conscription to the unformed and impressionable personality, and to its dangerous influences in the life of a community.

The inculcation of irresponsible obedience; the deadening of the moral sense; continual preparedness for war: these are some of the evils this country is probably about to fasten on the unborn generations. Can we not make a supreme effort, during these coming months, to save them from this modern form of slavery?

Words of Peace - No. 128

Science is wisdom; conscience is a greater wisdom; if there should come a time when these two should be divorced from each other then Hell would be let loose on earth.

—Rabelais.

LETTERS

Information wanted

I am attempting a piece of research into some of the more adventurous forms of peace-making and am anxious to find examples of unarmed intervention, similar to that of St. Telemachus and that offered by the Peace Army to the League of Nations during the fighting in Shanghai. I also want to collect examples of the use of armed forces for peaceful and constructive purposes, such as the use by Lord Wavell of the army for famine-relief in Bengal.

I would be most grateful if any of your readers could send me information that would help me.

JOYCE POLLARD

Dawes Mead, Leigh, Reigate, Surrey.

Mrs. Pandit's cable

With reference to the cablegram quoted by you (May 25) from Mrs. V. L. Pandit, it is inaccurate that this was addressed to the Labour Party conference. It was a personal cablegram to me, read at an India meeting at Blackpool.

(Prof.) GEORGE CATLIN

2 Cheyne Walk, Chelsea.

Apologies for the error. We relied on a Daily Herald report (May 19) which called it "a cable from San Francisco to the annual conference of the British Labour Party."—Ed.

More from Eire

My letter on "Germany and Ireland" which you kindly published on April 20 has resulted in a number of replies to which I shall reply individually.

Meanwhile, as one who loves the English and the Germans, may I take this opportunity of expressing the hope that with renewed travel facilities, we may all soon hope to get that contact once again which breaks down all hostility of feeling through difference of nationality.

The contribution which the International Drama Guild desires to make includes a theatrical tour at an early date with plays dealing with constructive ideals. We hope to leave Dublin for London in a few months' time and we should be pleased to hear from any residents in Britain who are interested in the theatre and who would be pleased to co-operate. We should also be pleased to hear from anyone in Britain who proposes to visit this haven of peace so that we can make them welcome. Travel permits are still difficult to get but doubtless an early improvement may be expected.

DON ALWYN (Playwright).

29 Pembroke Rd., Dublin.

P.S.U. holiday service

Last summer, a number of Peace News readers responded generously to an appeal by Pacifist Service Units for hospitality for children and adults who needed holidays out of London. As a result of this we were able to send away a number of people who had suffered from the air attacks which occurred throughout the previous twelve months.

This year there is still a pressing need, occasioned by depressed living conditions, and if we can get enough support, we desire to continue our efforts to meet it. In many cases we have found that the benefit derived, especially by children, from two or three weeks spent in more congenial surroundings, with adequate diet, fresh air, and an example of better social habits is marked and lasting. In our view, it is along these lines that the greatest hope for a permanent solution of the "slum" problem, in so far as it is a problem of individual habits, lies.

If, therefore, any friends are able to offer hospitality, or, failing that, contributions to cover the fares of needy persons, will they please write to any of these addresses:

TOM STEVENS, 86 Rusholme Rd., Manchester 13.

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W. R. I. PLANS FOR FUTURE

THE War Resisters' International, to which the Peace Pledge Union is affiliated, has held its International Conference every third year for the last twenty years until war made meeting impossible.

The first post-war International Conference will be called immediately travel permits are available. The International Council, which will meet first, is very conscious that the varied experiences of war, through which its members have passed, will have produced differing reactions. While they have evidence that our fundamental principles will be reaffirmed it is likely that the whole Movement may need a new orientation. Although contact has been maintained to a remarkable extent during the years of war, our comrades have often not been able to write freely, but now these comrades are beginning to be able to write much more about what has been happening and of their own reactions; their numbers are being enlarged by new friends who are turning towards us.

In order to strengthen the International and to prepare for our future work, a number of our representatives have already been able to cross the frontiers of Europe and set to work where the need is greatest.

For many months the International Council has been preparing for the time when our whole movement may hope to be reunited and able openly to think and work together again.

"I RENOUNCE WAR AND I WILL NEVER SUPPORT OR SANCTION ANOTHER."

This pledge, signed by each member, is the basis of the Peace Pledge Union.

Further information from: General Secretary, P.P.U., Dick Sheppard House, Endsleigh St., London, W.C.1.

To this end the International Council is immediately calling simultaneous conferences throughout the world. During many months, in consultation with leading members in other countries, the agenda has been prepared. The document is an ambitious one; it is more than an agenda, it is a study syllabus dealing with very many subjects and it is hoped that not only will the larger affiliated movements hold simultaneous conferences during the months of January and February, 1946, which is the time appointed, but that hundreds of small groups will study the syllabus, hold their conferences and accept, amend or reject the statements submitted. Time passes quickly in these days and statements may have to be brought up to date, but the underlying principles do not change.

The WRI hopes that every P.P.U. Group, as well as other groups, will hold its conference, the groups acting as preparatory commissions for larger conferences—probably the best results would come from conferences of not more than 50 persons.

When reports of these conferences reach the WRI, the International Council will set up a Commission to study them. It will then have a clearer picture of what the movement wants of it, and we shall all feel closer together and be better prepared for the day when we shall be able to meet in one great International Conference.

H. RUNHAM BROWN, Hon. Secretary. Copies of the agenda for Simultaneous Conferences can be obtained free from: W.R.I., 11 Abbey Rd., Enfield, Middx.

Taken from Jersey to Central Europe A C.O. TELLS HIS STORY

When more of the COs who were deported from the Channel Islands to internment in Germany arrive home we hope to publish an account of conditions in the Islands under German occupation, and of their treatment as internees.

In the meantime we have received the following account of his experiences from one who has already returned. The writer was transferred for health reasons to a hospital in Salzburg, in Austria, and thence last year, through the agency of the Swiss Embassy in Berlin, to a hospital in Switzerland. There he recovered and, through the help of Quakers, was able to attend the Swiss university of Neuchâtel from January until April this year.

AT Salzburg, I had regular visits from Jack Nutley and David Savage, who came from Laufen (20 miles away) with a German soldier; they brought me Red Cross parcels, and letter-cards to send home. The hospital attendants never confiscated any of the food, though I often found myself served with such mixtures as salmon and jam-pudding, meat and dried prunes, on the same plate, because they could not read the labels on the tins.

There was nothing to do all day once we (the patients) had scrubbed the floors (with foot-brushes) except play chess and halma and look after those amongst us who became so weak that they could not help themselves. Sometimes I was put naked in a bare cell, but I think this is part of the customary treatment of mental patients.

I was allowed out of the building for the purposes of carrying the bodies of patients who died to the post-mortem theatre, removing furniture etc., beating carpets, and fetching food and clothes from the kitchen and laundry. Several of the German patients were roughly handled by the male nurses, but I got on well with everybody.

Impression of Germany

The first and only glimpse I got of German life was when I left Salzburg for Switzerland in April last year. My impression was that of a people trying to be as decent and sociable as it can in the presence of a military dictatorship and the absence of culture which naturally accompanies it. I travelled with a German who treated me to beer and sandwiches when we changed trains at Munich (now in ruins I'm told), and with whom I stayed the night in a maternity hospital (there being no other accommodation) at Bregenz.

In Switzerland I met Russian, German, French, Polish, Italian and other refugees, evacuees, prisoners of war, internees, etc., all enjoying various degrees of liberty and all eager to make friends with the Swiss and with one another in the international atmosphere natural to a country of four languages, where the right of refuge has long been established, which has organized a Fund for War Victims to which nearly every Swiss has contributed, and which has received many of Europe's war-stricken children into its homes.

Swiss pacifists

Swiss pacifists are a small body (military service there is more "popular" than elsewhere: the training is rather democratic—no Sandhursts, etc.—and spaced out over a number of periods) but their activities outweigh their numbers. They are organizing groups for reconstruction (rebuilding and demolition) in Normandy and near the Swiss frontier in France.

I owe my repatriation to a lift in a YMCA car from Geneva to Paris, where I had a glimpse of the fine relief work being done by the Friends.

I can say that my faith in Christian pacifism has not in the least been shaken as a result of my experiences; rather do I feel convinced that most of the people of all nationalities I have come across stand in need of our message, and are groping towards our view of life though they may not know they are.

Peace News is open for the expression of all points of view relevant to pacifism. Articles in it, whether signed or unsigned, do not necessarily represent the policy of the Peace Pledge Union, of which it is the weekly organ. Nor does the acceptance of advertisements imply any endorsement of, or P.P.U. connexion with, the matter advertised.

Message from Jersey last week

A message of greeting to the Peace Pledge Union and the Society of Friends was received last week from English COs in Jersey.

Of the 100 who remained on the island in 1940 two-thirds were deported in 1942 for internment in Germany.

Those who remain were holding their fifth annual reunion this week.

LABOUR PACIFISTS WANT SUPPORT

An open letter to COs and another to ex-members of the Labour Party have been issued by the Labour Pacifist Fellowship. To COs the LPF puts the case for political action through the Party, adding: "It doesn't matter if you disagree with some of its policy; so do we! Come inside and help us! By yourself you are helpless."

The appeal to ex-members of the Party to rejoin says:

"We believe it is essential that all pacifists who are socialists should be united in seeking to redirect the policy of the Labour Party, the only effective political expression of the workers of this country, towards the basic ideas and principles upon which it was founded. We believe this can be done effectively only from within."

The Fellowship will hold its annual conference on June 10.

The secretary is W. R. Page, 127 Fellows Rd., London, N.W.3.

Douglas-Home freed

The Hon. William Douglas-Home, who was cashed and sentenced to a year's imprisonment by a court-martial on Oct. 4 last year, for "disobeying a lawful command" at Le Havre on Sept. 8, was released from Wakefield Prison on Tuesday.

He plans to stand for Parliament as an Independent, according to Mr. Ronald Cornwell, who acted as his agent at a by-election in 1942. "It is too early to say which constituency he will select," added Mr. Cornwell.

Two new P.P.U. sponsors

The recent annual general meeting of the Peace Pledge Union agreed to invite Benjamin Britten and Michael Tippett, the well-known young composers, to become Sponsors of the movement. They have now accepted the invitations.

The P.P.U. Headquarters circular on "The P.P.U. Public Action, and the General Election" sent to all groups last week, was issued in place of the usual fortnightly Group Letter.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

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HOSPITAL WORKER seeks bed-sitting room or similar accommodation in or near Central London. Box 983.

FARM WORKER, 22, wants room and cooking facilities, Midhurst, immediately, reasonable charge. Appreciates culture; pacifist. Box 984.

WILL ANYONE OFFER pacifist artist an attic, basement (anything) for use as studio-home. Condition immaterial but must be very low rent. Unfurnished London place if possible. Very urgent. Box 987.

DERBYSHIRE HILLS. Food Reform Vegetarian Guest House for happy holidays or restful recuperation; all modern comforts. A. and K. S. Ludlow, The Briars Crich, Matlock. (Station: Ambergate; Tel. Ambergate 44.)

LAKE DISTRICT. Holiday caravan to let (2-berth). 30s. weekly. Attendance (if needed) by arrangement. Box 985.

WEST HIGHLANDS vegetarian guest-house not opening this year, but limited accommodation available during August. Box 988.

RURAL HOLIDAY: free board,

lodging, for part-time help market-garden. Single person preferred; booking now till October. Northamptonshire. Box 989.

FARM HOLIDAYS. Bathing, boating. Produce supplied. Helpers, special terms. Girl needed permanently. Finch, Hullbridge, Essex.

EDUCATIONAL

FIND RECREATION and new power to serve through speaking and writing. Correspondence (also visit) lessons 5s., classes 1s. 6d. Dorothy Matthews, B.A., 32 Primrose Hill Rd., London, N.W.3. (PRI. 5686.)

FOR SALE & WANTED

STREAMLINED 14-ft. trailer caravan for sale; double and single beds, oil cooking; practically new. £250. "Walden Acres," Wokingham Rd., Hurst, Reading.

LAND & COMMUNITY

GOOD RENT PAID for 15-40 acre holding suitable dairying; good house; adequate capital; keen worker; S.W. counties preferred. Box 973.

LITERATURE, &c.

BOOKS ON PSYCHOLOGY, philosophy, theology, mysticism, liturgy, politics, pacifism, fiction etc. No callers. Monthly lists 2d. stamp. Kingdom Books, East Mersea, Colchester, Essex.

"RESISTANCE IN NORWAY" price 2d. by Diderich Lund, member of War Resisters' International, Norwegian Section. "Educational Reconstruction in Germany," price 4d. by William Sollman. Obtainable from: War Resisters' International, 11 Abbey Rd., Enfield, Middlesex.

"CHRISTENDOM ASTRAY from The Bible." Write for this interesting free book to Christadelphian, 28 West Rd., Bedford, Middlesex.

"CURING NAZI-ISM" (Fritz Gross); "Post-War Plans" (Duke of Bedford); "Max Plozman, Artist" (John Hogan). Illustrated "Christian Party News-Letter," 5d. 30 Darby Rd., Oldbury, Birmingham.

MEETINGS, &c.

LONDON FORUM. Director, Fredrick Lohr. Public lecture by W. W. Couper: "Staudenmaier and the Reversibility of Perception." Mon., June 11 at 7.30 at the Chancery Theatre, Clareville St., South Kensington.

BROMLEY P.P.U. and F.O.R. William Morris Hall, Masons Hill, Mon. June 11, 8 p.m. Speaker: Martin Tupper. "The Christian Foundation of Peace."

MASS MEETING for all hospital and welfare workers, Conway Hall, Sun. June 10, 2.30 p.m. Speakers: Ald. Hardy, J.P., Dr. R. Doll, L.M.A., Mr. W. L. Griffiths. Your questions welcome. Hospital and Welfare Services Union especially invites non-union members.

EDMONTON P.P.U. welcome all to social, Tottenham Friends' Meeting House, Sat. June 16, 6.0 p.m.

THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE of the Brotherhood of the Way will be held at Abbey Farm, Hoxne, Diss, Norfolk, June 23-30. Members and sympathizers invited. Special subject: "The Message of the Spirit to the Church at this time." Applications to C. C. Stimson at above address.

PERSONAL

CONTACT CORRESPONDENCE CLUB. A satisfactory medium for those desiring congenial pen-friendships. Particulars, stamp, Secy., PN, 19 Ty Fry Gardens, Rumney, Cardiff.

YOU WILL FIND true friendship in the L. and H. C. Correspondence Club. Send s.a.e. for particulars to Secretary, L. and H.C.C.C., 39 Reighton Rd., London, E.5.

MAY 30, 1934. All love to my darling wife.—Col.

ITALIAN DOCTOR, prisoner-of-war, nothing to do or read. Suitable novels and literature in Italian or French a god-send. Send to Mrs. Gowing, Newlands, Rearsby, Leicestershire. All acknowledged.

MAKING HISTORY! Councillor J. C. Dempsey is standing in the Kettering Parliamentary Division as an Independent and Christian candidate at the coming election. Help in money and service urgently needed. Particulars, personal, principles and programme on application to the Dempsey Election Committee, Rothwell, Kettering.

C.O. (24), PROFESSIONAL, desires pacifist companionship for week's holiday, September, open to suggestions. Box 991.

SITUATIONS VACANT

We cannot confirm satisfactory conditions of employment in all posts advertised. Applicants in doubt are recommended to consult the Central Board for COs, 6 Endsleigh St., W.C.1, which will often be able to give useful advice.

CAPABLE WOMAN WANTED for domestic work and serving meals in a Business House nr. Wellingborough. Good salary and outings, furnished or unfurnished accommodation. Write stating particulars to: The Secretary, Scott Bader and Co., Ltd., Wollaston Hall, nr. Wellingborough, Northants.

WANTED, knowledgeable child-lover to take charge of healthy 15-month boy and help to run house, good salary, friendly Left-wing home. Apply Vallance, 6 Paradise Walk, Chelsea, S.W.3. Flax. 0808.

RESIDENT MASTER (experienced) wanted for September term: games; elementary subjects; good salary; nice post. References essential. Preparatory School, Kenilworth Rd., Coventry.

ASSISTANT to Donald Port, Development officer. Shorthand-typing and knowledge of P.P.U. desirable. Information on application to Gen. Sec., P.P.U., 6 Endsleigh St., W.C.1.

LAD WANTED, for market-garden and poultry; live in. Experience unnecessary. Good home, and opportunities to learn business throughout. Northamptonshire. Box 990.

WANTED URGENTLY. Capable cook, male or female. Vegetarian Camp. Numbers probable 30. Oil-Prunus apparatus. Pratt, Taylor's Orchard, Goodlington, Paignton.

LINOTYPE operator required by printers of Peace News. Trade Union house; good wages for the right man. Apply Clifford Printing Co., 12B Manor-road, London, N.16. (Phone: STAMford Hill 2943.)

SITUATIONS & WORK WANTED

MAN with one yr's. experience farming, two yrs. vegetable growing, wants market-garden work. South Bucks, or near, starting early July. Box 981.

PROFESSIONAL Secretarial Service. Duplicating, etc. Mabel Eyles, 84 The Vale, Southgate, N.14. PAL. 7386.

FARM MANAGER'S or Bailiff's position required by energetic young farmer on mixed farm. Good cottage essential. Varied experience. Excellent references. Thistlethwaite, Snowford Hall, Hunningham, Leamington.

PRACTICAL COUPLE with capital desire guest-house post with partnership prospects. Box 986.

NIGHT WORK WANTED in Central London hospital. Information please to Employment Section, C.B.C.O., 6 Endsleigh St., W.C.1.

TWO YOUNG WOMEN want constructive work for mid-August to mid-September. Box 992.

BUILDING-PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, etc.: C.O. (37), extensive experience, seeks responsible job. Practical or supervision. London, S. S.W. counties preferred. Box 993.

ELDERLY C.O. will accept any permanent post (light manual work) which carries living quarters for self and wife. Excellent references. Hathaway, 6 Lagos St., Swindon.

DUPLICATING, TYPEWRITING. Expert work. Terms moderate. Prompt service. Baylis, 1 Lower Church Rd., Richmond, Surrey.

MISCELLANEOUS

INSTITUTE PSYCHOLOGY, Kensington. Lectures every Tuesday, 7 p.m. Philosophy, genuine social introductions. Consultations all problems. Western 8935.

REG. J. BAILEY, M.S.F., N.C.P., Osteopath and Naturopath. Nature-cure treatment of disease.

REGINALD BAILEY, N.C.P., Psychiatrist and Specialist in Eye Treatment (Bates Method), 134 Hoppers Rd., Winchmore Hill, N.21. Consultations by appointment. Postal advice given. Palmers Green 7868.

ALLYSOL—SEND stamps 6d. for two 20-page booklets of life-conserving information about garlic: (1) a herbal remedy with 5,000 years of history; (2) Rheumatism and Catarrh dissolved at their root. Allysol Company, Fairlight, Sussex.

APOLOGIES TO READERS awaiting return of fountain pens. Delay due to transfer to new premises. N.B.: T.B.S., 339 Kennington Rd., S.E.11—for all your pen repairs.

DOUGLAS COTTRILL, Nature Cure Practitioner. Treatment of disease by natural methods. Consultations by appointment only. 8 Hayfield Rd., Moseley, Birmingham. 13.

German C.O.s

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

to be unfaithful towards their God.

"On Easter Sunday, 1939, a further attempt was made by the Camp Informer to persuade these people to recognize the State and the beloved Führer who did so much good. He expected at least fifty signatures within the next few weeks, and if these did not follow, then hell would break loose. . . The success was nil.

"Whitsuntide, 1939, the entire group of Bible Students had to appear on the parade ground. After a speech . . . began a shocking drill in two parts. There was rolling hopping, creeping and running. . . This procedure lasted for an hour and fifteen minutes, during which the block Führers lent aid with the heels of their boots and with sticks. In particular, veterans of the last war with amputated legs who were not able to bend their knees were severely struck on the head. Covered with perspiration, the whole group had to stand at the gate for one hour. . .

"After war broke out . . . all Bible Students were brought to the gate. Roedl, the chief Camp Führer, declared: 'You know, war has broken out, the German nation is in danger. New laws are coming into force. If you now refuse to fight against France or England you will have to die.' Then followed the incident described above in Mr. Hallstrom's broadcast.

The document continues: "At an inspection by the Camp Führer, all the Bible Students were separated and sent to the stone-quarry, although they were 90 per cent. disabled. Only men possessed by demons could make such devilish decisions. During this time all medical treatment for Bible Students was stopped. Only faith in a just, divine vengeance kept and supported these people.

"Stupified by the Blitzkriegs in 1940, that year passed comparatively quietly for Buchenwald. In March, 1940, the Bible Students had to stand at the gate every evening for eight days because the Camp Elder had reported they had been talking to Jewish prisoners.

"Bible Students were chosen for favourite posts in order to ensnare them and win them over to National-Socialism. This did not succeed." After detailing further instances of individual and collective ill-treatment, the document goes on to record the refusal of the Bible Students to make war-weapons (including, according to Mr. Hallstrom, V-weapons), despite threats of the death penalty. "Because a few, for fear of being beaten or killed did such work under the pressure of willing instruments of the devil, they were immediately excluded from the community of this neutral people."

SURVIVORS ALSO FOUND IN BELSEN

THE International Bible Students' Association in London learnt last week that Friends Relief Service workers at Belsen concentration camp had met 18 Bible Students—the survivors of 83.

A letter from the prisoners themselves, however, declares: "Of 31 brothers and 52 sisters, living here now are only 3 brothers and 25 sisters (within two months)"—making 28 survivors instead of 18. The letter itself adds that among these Jehovah's Witnesses the following nationalities are represented: Russian, Polish, Hungarian, Austrian, Dutch, German and Slovakian.

PREPARING

for an ENDURING PEACE.

A Conference will be held at The Refectory, Jordans, Saturday and Sunday, 16 and 17 June.

Speakers:
REGINALD SORESEN, M.P.,
DOUGLAS OWEN, DONALD PORT,
JAMES AVERY JOYCE.

Chairman: DENNIS DAVIS.

Full particulars and tickets from Russell Everett, Corner Cottage, Jordans.

Organised by Amersham Regional Council and No. 13, Area Council.

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GIFTS OF CLOTHING

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The War Resisters' International,
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Distribution through our own Norwegian and Belgian members.

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COMMENTARY . . . by "ARGUS"

THE plight of France is primarily economic and secondly psychological.

Gen. de Gaulle's extraordinary display of sabre-rattling in the Levant provides a digression from the one and convincing evidence of the other. The drastic British counter-action indicates that "the policy of deceptive silence," as "A Student of Europe" terms it (The Observer, June 3), comes to an abrupt end.

The same writer reviews Britain's chequered relations with de Gaulle in terms which might have been borrowed from these columns when such candour was still unpopular elsewhere:

"Our statesmen have never, up to now, had the courage to acknowledge the error they committed in promoting de Gaulle to a pinnacle of political leadership; and they have never, either to their own people or to the French, made a distinction between de Gaulle and France. But it is they who created the de Gaulle legend, on both sides of the Channel. It was from London that de Gaulle, riding the waves of the BBC, made his way to Algiers and Paris. . . How can we expect the French to suspect a man so expressly recommended to them by ourselves of being an obstacle to the coming together of our two nations?"

De Gaulle is now well placed to be one of the "instruments to plague us" which the gods have made of our "petty vices"—or our Churchillian impetuosities—in dealing with

NEXT WEEK'S Peace News will be a 6-PAGE ISSUE

France since June, 1940. A good many people in high places must now be wondering why they did not back Giraud.

As for the Middle East, the show-down which de Gaulle has brought about has immediately consolidated the newly-formed Arab League and jeopardized the prospect of any of the Western Powers retaining any special privileges in that area. It has also brought Russia, previously limited to a watching brief in Persia, fully into the conflict.

The Observer contributor credits de Gaulle's book, "The Army of the Future," with the conclusion "that the sword is the axis of the world and that greatness cannot be shared." It is a sentiment that most Frenchmen will be found to have outgrown—if ever they return to normal.

We are no friend of British imperialism, but the suggestion that it is somehow in British interests to stir up insurrection in the Levant is too fantastic for words.

Non-fraternization nonsense

TWO developments suggest that the non-fraternization order to British and American troops in Germany may soon be modified. The first is the realization that it is becoming increasingly difficult to carry out in practice. The second is the fact that the Russians are not barring fraternization in their zone of occupation.

It is said to be "a common sight to see Russian soldiers sitting outside German homes spending a social evening with German families and common to see Russian soldiers

How C.O.s stand now

Many conscientious objectors on the land and in other work, reports the Central Board for C.O.s, have been inquiring how their position was affected by the manpower relaxations which came into force on June 4.

First, conditions of registration are not affected at all.

Secondly, those under Essential Work Orders (such as C.O.s working for Agricultural Executive Committees) remain bound by the Orders.

Thirdly, there will be much less "direction" to jobs under Defence Regulations 58A than before.

Fourthly, men between 18 and 51 and women between 18 and 41 must, in future, have "green cards" from an Employment Exchange before taking jobs, and employers must only employ them in the event of such cards being issued. But there are exceptions to this: for instance, men and women can go into agriculture, horticulture, forestry, part-time jobs of 30 hours a week or less, unpaid work, executive jobs and some others without having a "green card" from an Exchange.

Lastly, men and women working for private farmers in England and Wales can now leave their work without official consent, but for most new work off the land they must obtain "green cards," and the Government may well be sparing in issuing cards in such circumstances, so that, in fact, those affected may be little better off.

The CBOCs penny Broadsheet 9 on "Control of Employment" is being revised to include the new developments, and will be re-issued in the near future.

walking out with German girls." (John Hall, Daily Mail, June 1.)

The requirements of political expediency and of the human factors involved coincide to make the non-fraternization order an acknowledged embarrassment. The fact that it was also morally wrong is not so widely recognized; but we must be thankful for small mercies.

Sharing the food

BUT in the crucial matter of food the policy of discrimination against Germany may continue with disastrous results.

Every country has its urgent needs, and in Holland actual starvation still exists.

"Major M. S. Harvey, British Army public health officer with the civil administration at the Netherlands district headquarters . . . said the position was 'under control, but very serious,' and hundreds of people are still dying from starvation. The latest weekly figures show 33 per cent. of all deaths in The Hague are directly due to starvation." (News Chronicle, June 1.)

It may not be long before Germany faces a similar catastrophe:

"Whether or not famine over wide areas of Germany next winter can still be averted depends now to a great extent on how soon some measure of centralized authority in the country can be restored. . . A highly centralized government cannot be widely decentralized overnight, and it was apparent from the start that restoration of the larger administrative units as functioning organs of domestic government was imperative." (Manchester Guardian, May 31.)

The plain fact is that if Europe's immediate needs are to be met, shipping must be used that is now in the process of being diverted to the Far

Eastern war. Europe will only get what can be spared. And the tendency, we may be sure, will be to discriminate against Germany.

Yet prolonged and widespread hunger in any country are likely to have evil political consequences. From the point of view of future peace the wisest policy would be to share out as fairly as possible whatever is available. There will be quite enough local variation, due to transport troubles, without adding to it, in a spirit of revenge.

Allied troops in Germany after the last war gave food to hungry Germans. Must we wait for the situation to deteriorate until the soldiers can again bear it no longer—as we have done with non-fraternization—before we act?

Party lines

THE Labour Party Executive last week explained that it could not accept the ILP's application for affiliation, because the ILP's opposition to compulsory military service "would be inconsistent with the successful conduct of the war against Japanese aggression." On May 31 the Daily Herald thought it worth while to devote its leading article to a denial of "fantastic" rumours in the USA that the Labour Party is "indifferent or antagonistic to the war in the Far East."

Support of the war against Japan is common to the three main parties, and pacifists who intend to vote will have to make their choice on other grounds.

SYRIA Background of conflicting interests in Middle East

ON Sept. 22, 1922, Lenin issued a prophetic warning on the Middle East in a Note sent to the British Foreign Office. The warning was not heeded; and now history repeats itself in the Levant.

The question raised by history is nearly always the same. But on this occasion Britain must give an answer to Stalin differing in character from the one given to Lenin in 1922, when Britain and France were on the verge of war. The balance of power has changed.

Oil has lost its original function. Formerly it was used to calm the troubled waters. Now it creates the troubled waters.

Any student of history could have foreseen that when General de Gaulle placed the Lebanon Cabinet in prison trouble was brewing. It should have been plain that de Gaulle, weak in arms, was not playing the strong man without some outside backing.

Share-out

Let us look briefly at the problems now agitating the public mind. It is not new. It has been there, on that same spot, since Britain decided she must guard all roads to the east. It has been intensified since oil was found on the road to the east.

It is the problem posed by Lenin when he said the capitalist nations could never agree on what was "our share." Earlier in our history Wolsey decided that the way to get "our share" was to play off one European nation against the other.

Alas, there is no finality in that. When we destroy the strongest Power in Europe the second strongest Power automatically becomes the strongest.

In 1815 France, the strongest Power, was down. Russia was up, and at once began the struggle for mastery in the east between Russia and Britain ending with the Crimean war in 1854.

Russia was no longer the strongest Power. France soon began to behave "like a runaway horse," according to Palmerston. Germany defeated France, and Russia became troublesome again.

By 1887 it was apparent that Germany might become the strongest Power in Europe. Germany did, and she was beaten. By 1918 Germany was down, but France was up.

Now see what happened. In May, 1920, France and Britain agreed to exploit the oil of the Middle East jointly. Alas, they could not agree on what was "our share."

Britain set up and paid the salaries of three Arab kings. That looked like stealing a march. France decided

to support Britain's enemy, Mustapha Kemal. In the House of Commons on Oct. 13, 1922, Mr. Austen Chamberlain said that the French agreement with Mustapha Kemal "encouraged the Kemalist pretensions and gave the first serious indication of a divergence of views among the Allies."

Now, in 1945, we once again see "a serious divergence of views among the Allies." They cannot agree as to the best means of securing "our share."

Mr. Lloyd George, as we know, persisted in supporting our protégé of France. The ruling class at the Foreign Office opposed. Still, as Lord Derby warned us, "We were on the verge of war."

But why was the war called off? A new menace had arisen in the Middle East. The menace of Communism. Lenin and Kemal were working hand in hand. Britain made a strategic retreat.

Although the British Government had sworn that never again would the Dardanelles Straits be fortified, by 1936 we had to agree that Turkey should fortify them. Germany was strong again.

Russia's Part

But herein lies the chief historic precedent for to-day's events—and the historic difference in treatment. In 1922 it was decided not to take a war-weary nation to war against a former ally, but to have a conference. That is happening today.

In 1922 Lenin sent what was called "an arrogant note." But the great Powers refused to invite Russia to the conference. Lenin issued his historic warning. He said: "No decision adopted without Russia will be either definite or permanent."

Today we know how true was the warning. Nothing decided at the conference was permanent. But Britain paid no heed to that warning prophecy. Instead she invited her then faithful ally—Japan—to the conference. Every vote counts.

And now once again it is considered better to have a conference than have a war. And once again Stalin issues a warning. Russia wants an invitation, and this time she is to bring an ally—China.

Dare we refuse this time? At the time of writing no decision has been reached. But history is repeating itself. Germany is down, Russia is up. If Russia supports France then France is up.

Britain cannot play off Germany against France and Russia this time. The Wolsey policy, which has kept us in turmoil for centuries, is finished in Europe. And the USA will not be led. She will do the leading.

John Scanlon